



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO **MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: July 3, 2002 REPORT NO. 02-156

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of July 10, 2002

SUBJECT: Access Barrier Removal Pedestrian Curb Ramps

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The following strategies have been implemented to assist the City in meeting the curb ramp requirements of ADA for retrofitting existing curbs and sidewalks:

1. Curb Ramp Contracts: The City contracts out for the installation of curb ramps on an annual basis. These contracts are funded annually by about \$100,000 from the 20% City-wide CDBG allocation to Disability Services and from contributions of CDBG funds from individual council districts. Other fund sources for curb ramp construction come from DIF money as well as a one-time \$200,000 sum from transnet in FY 02. These contracts are managed by the Transportation and Drainage Design Division of the Engineering Department. The City has installed about 1,500 curb ramps from these sources since 1995.
2. Resident Owners: It is the City's policy that whenever a corner residence remodel project occurs which exceeds \$50,000, a curb ramp must be installed. A few hundred curb ramps have been installed as part of this policy.
3. Water and Sewer Installations: Whenever an alteration occurs on a City street due to the replacement of a water or sewer line, curb ramps are installed along the route of the pipeline. As a result of sewer/water projects, about 3,150 curb ramps have been installed.

4. Street Rehabilitation or Reconstruction: Curb ramps are now installed along streets with the resurfacing contracts and sidewalk contracts. Street Division contracts install annually about 150 curb ramps.
5. Other Capital Improvement Projects (CIP): Curb ramps are also installed through other CIP projects involving the public right-of-way (such as traffic signals, roadway widenings, bridges, storm drains, etc.). About fifty curb ramps are installed yearly as part of this category “Other City’s CIP Projects”.

The total installed or reinstalled curb ramps city-wide since the 1995 inventory is about 5,500, excluding curb ramps installed by new developments as a requirement in newly developed areas.

DISCUSSION:

All publicly funded improvement projects located in the street rights-of-way will include the installation of curb ramps, where not previously provided. This includes water/sewer, and street improvement and rehabilitation projects. Also private developments are required to comply with ADA guidelines and install curb ramps, when needed. These processes for installing curb ramps result in ramps being added in the street right-of-way along the project alignment.

The contracts which exclusively construct curb ramps, such as the CDBG funded contracts noted earlier, construct curb ramps on a priority basis. Federal guidelines set forth criteria for prioritizing the installation of curb ramps. High public usage areas near shopping centers, transportation, schools, form the basis for these criteria. Another factor in selection is by special request for an area where there is a demonstrated need. Based on these factors, the City maintains a request list for installation of curb ramps. This list is maintained by the Transportation & Drainage Design Division of the Engineering & Capital Projects Departments. The request list is continually updated as new requests are made.

Requests for curb ramps come from a variety of sources including disabled citizens, friends or relatives of disabled citizens, City Council members, and from City staff. There are currently 870 ramp locations on the list (see Attachment 1). Each of these locations represents an identified immediate need for an individual or group of individuals in our community.

Once the funding is available for the annual curb ramp contracts, the number of ramps that can be constructed annually is estimated. The current cost for a curb ramp is about \$1,400. Ramp locations are chosen from the request list using the following:

1. Date of the request, coupled with the following priority criteria:
 - Public Buildings
 - Transportation Routes
 - Places of Accommodation
 - Schools
 - Shopping Centers

- Employers
- Residential Areas

2. Geographic grouping of requested locations for cost-effective construction

The staff-recommended list of curb ramp locations to be placed into the contracts is given to the Subcommittee on Removal of Access Barriers (SCRAB) for their input as part of the Citizens Review process on ADA and Disability Issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Frank Belock, Jr., Director
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Approved: George I. Loveland
Senior Deputy City Manager

Note: The attachment is not available in electronic format. A copy is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Removal of Architectural Barriers-Curb Ramp Request List